(b) whether it is a fact that unemployment has increased at an alarming rate during the last one year; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to encourage labour intensive industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) The available information relates to the number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges all of whom are not necessarily unemployed. The number of youth (15—29 years) on the live register of employment exchanges as on 31-12-84 was 202.5 lakhs (Provisional).

(b) The number of job-seekers on the live register rose from 219.5 at the end of 1983 to 235.5 lakhs at the end of 1984, representing an increase of 7.3 per cent.

(c) Under the centrally sponsored District Industries Centre Programme entire country excepting the Metropolitan towns of Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Lakshadweep Union Territory is covered. Under this programme State Governments provide every possible assistance to the entrepreneurs for setting up small cottage, tiny and village industries, including labour intensive industries. State Governments also assist the entrepreneurs in getting concessional finanace, power, accommodation and other essential inputs.

Per capita cloth off-take

1099. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the *per capita* cloth off-take in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present *per capita* cloth off-take shows a decline in comparison to that of the previous year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Per capita consumpion (off-take) of textiles, expressed in terms of cotton cloth in the country during the current year is estimated to be about 18.60 metres as against the corresponding figure of 17.33 metres for the last year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Security-free loans to entrepreneurs

1100. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: *Will the Minister of* FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of entrepreneurs who have been benefited from the scheme of Rs. 25,000 loan without any security during the year 1984-85;

(b) what is the number of beneficiaries under this scheme from Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints of corruption in implementing the scheme from Maharashtra or any other part of the country; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken against the bank employees involved in corrupt practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the scheme for providing self-employment to the educated unemployed youth which was introduced in the year 1983-84. During 1984-85, as per reports received from State/Union Territory Governments, 2.29 lakhs unemployed youths got benefit under the self-employment scheme and out of this 18.667 cases were sanctioned by the banks in Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) In a scheme which is being implemented on a large scale,

there may always be a few complaints regarding delay, non-sanctioning of loans, faulty distribution of loans and available of loans by non-eligible persons. However, specific complaints whenever received are got looked into with a view to take suitable remedial action.

Development of Tourist sports in Maharashtra

1101. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that internationally famous Ajanta and Ellora caves have not been included in the important tourist spots map of India,

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the important tourist places in Maharashtra and what efforts have been made by Government to develop the identified tourist spots in that State?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Ajanta and Ellora Caves are included in the tourist map of India.

(c) The important tourist centres in Maharashtra identified in consultation with the State Government are:

Bombay, Pune, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad (Ajanta & Ellora) Nasik, Murud, Janjira, Ganpatiphule, Vengurla, Nagpur, Ramtok, Wardha (Sevagram), Chandrapur (Tadoba National Park).

These centres are being developed with the combined resources of State. Centre and the private sector. The State Government is providing transportation facilities conducted tours, accommodation facilities and other tourist infrastructure facilities for those centres identified. The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned funds for strengthening of Elephanta Jetty and for the development of Ajanta Foot Hills.

Losses suffered by the Ashok Travels and Tours and ITDC Hotels

1102. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2764 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 1985 and state:

(a) what are the reasons which have led Ashok Travels and Tours and the India Tourism Development Corporation Hotels to incur net loss of Rs. 22.59 lakhs and Rs. 55.47 lakhs respectively during 1984-85;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce these losses; and

(c) whether these Units and Hotels are expected to earn profits during the current year or in the next year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The main reasons for the losses are:

—Operation of un-economic transport units.

—Un-healthy competition from private operators with low establishment expenses as compared to ITDC.

—General decline in tourist traffic etc. due to disturbed condition in the country during peak tourist season.

—Setting up of three new hotels in Delhi, which are under gestation period entailing financial burden on account of heavy interest and depreciation.

—surplus hotel accommodation in certain cities.

—location of certain hotels for purely promotional purposes.